Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: June – August 2019 Issue date: 24.05.19

The forecast presented here is for June and the average of the June-July-August period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for June will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/ weather/ forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 31 May 2019.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For June and June-July-August as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for June-July-August will fall into the coldest of our five categories is around 5%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is between 45 and 50% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Sea surface temperatures close to the El Niño threshold remain present in the Tropical Pacific Ocean, and are likely to continue during this period. Historically, however, El Niño has little impact on the UK at this time of year, so its effect is likely to be small.
Current patterns of sea surface temperature across the North Atlantic Ocean increase the probability of higher-than-average pressure across Northern Europe. These patterns are similar to, but not as marked as, those at this time last year. As a result, the influence of these features is likely to be smaller. During summer, high pressure is usually associated with warmer-than-average conditions.
For June, the Met Office long-range prediction system and systems from other prediction centres around the world show a small increase in the likelihood of high pressure near the UK. For the June-July-August period overall, predictions are mixed, giving lower confidence in the overall theme of a moderate high-pressure signal. Taken together with the warming of climate, as seen in temperatures in the last 10 years (see figure T2), these factors imply an increased likelihood of warmer-than-average conditions.
The relatively high probability of our warmest category does not imply hot weather throughout the 3-month period. The likelihood of a 3-month long heatwave is very small. Heatwaves are part of day-to-day weather and the outlook does not identify weather for a particular day or week. The increased likelihood of a warm summer this year could mean more days with temperatures that are above average to a more modest degree. This outcome can arise from a range of types of weather, not just sunny and dry conditions.

Fig T1

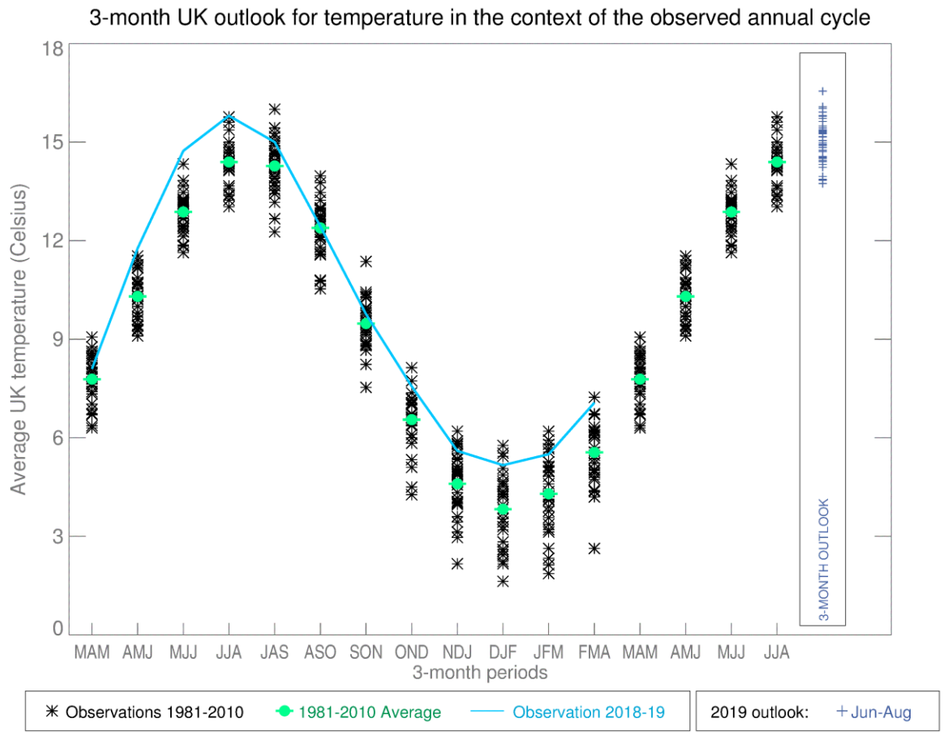


Fig T2

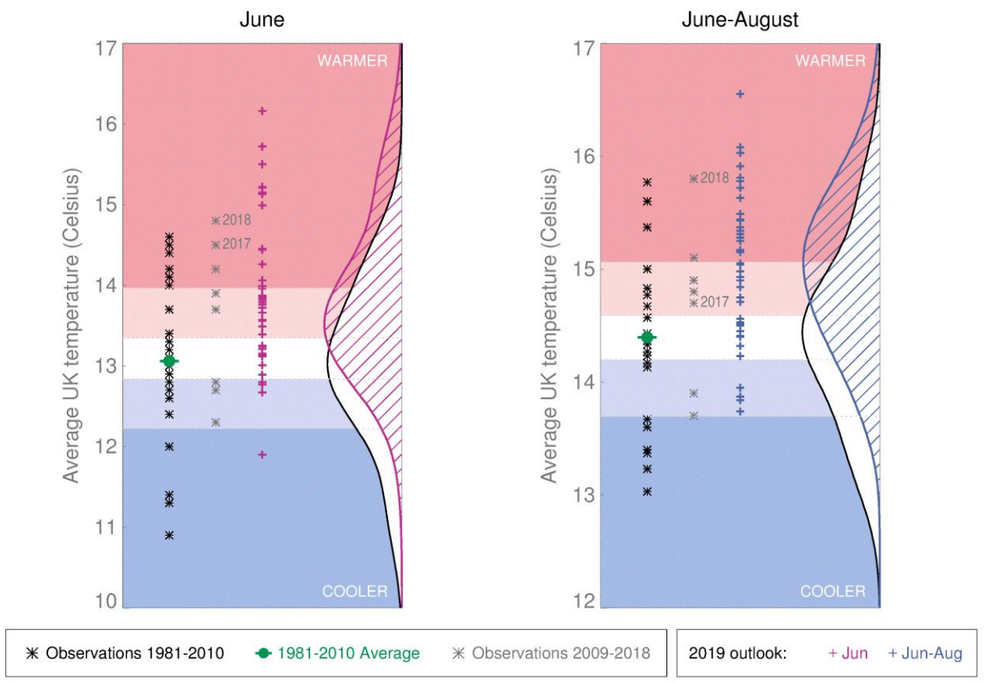
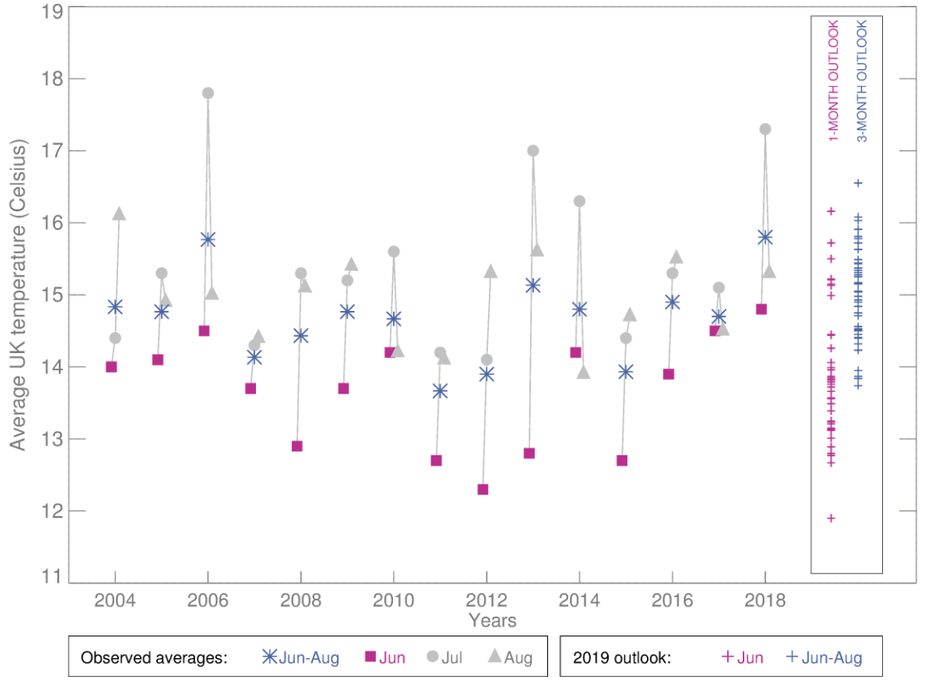


Fig T3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average UK temperature (Celsius)
Years
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
Observed averages: Jun-Aug Jun Jul Aug
2019 outlook: +Jun +Jun-Aug

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.